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THE PIONEER

OV SIMPLIFIED SPELING.

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THE PIONEER

OV SIMPLIFIED SPELING

VOL. III, No. 1. JANYUARI 1914.

THE FURST ANYUAL MEETING.

THE Meeting ov the Sosieti in konekshon with the Konferens Week ov Edyukaishonal Sosietiz at the London Yunivursiti on the 5th inst. woz atended with veri grait sukses. Thair woz a larj atendans, and the speechez bi Mis Burstall, Sur William Ramsay, and Prof. Rippmann wer moest impresiv. The Pres gaiv veri konsiderabl spais tu a report ov the meeting, the "Times" devoeting neerli a kolum and a haaf. Leeding artiklz ov a moest simpathetik naityur hav apeerd in meni inflooenshal paiperz. Veri noetwurthi iz the editorial in the "Globe," in which the aimz ov the Sosieti ar spoeken ov with kompleet apruuval. Hithertu this paiper haz biterli opoezd the muuvment. We hav begun the Nyu Yeer in a wai that must send a thril ov deliet thru aul our memberz. For wun thing, the subjekt kan no mor be treeted az a jest and a whim. If nuthing els, the pronounsment bi Lord Bryce must bring the mater tu the seerius konsideraishon not oenli ov the edyucaishonist but ov the biznes man. We kwoet hiz wurdz from the "Manchester Guardian":

> "If wun konsiderd it meerli az a biznes propozishon, a reform ov the speling wood be wurth a vaąst deel tu British traid. English woz begining tu be the langwij ov komers, and Japanese frendz had deplord tu him the difikultiz which English speling thruu in the wai ov thair eforts tu spred the langwij."

Tu the regret ov aul, indispozishon prevented Prof. Gilbert Murray, our Prezident, from atending the meeting. He sent the foloing leter:

> "Mi beleef in the need ov speling reform groez yeerli stronger. We must fais the fakt that (1) our alfabet iz a far from purfekt instrooment for rekording our langwij, and (2) that, insted ov yuzing this instrooment efektivli for whot

it iz wurth, akording tu sum simpl and siëntifik sistem, we wonder in a kaios ov tradishonal ruulz az komplikaited az thai ar inkonsistent.

"I hav no dout that yu or uther speekerz wil dwel on the grait difikulti ov lurning tu reed and riet in English az kompaird with Italian, Spanish, or German; on the waist ov tiem and trubl this cauzez tu children at an aij when everi our iz valyuabl; on the disadvaantij it laiz on English in kompetishon with uther langwijez az an internashonal meedium ov speech. I am mieself partikyularli struk bi tuu bad efekts ov our ruulz ov speling. Furst, thai spoil a chield'z eer, so that he duz not noe whot soundz he iz prodyusing and kan not tel when tuu soundz ar the saim or diferent; he haz been so insistentli taut tu fiks hiz atenshon not on the sound, but on the speling. Sekondli, thai spoil hiz reezoning pouerz and hiz faith in kleer thaut bi fiksing hiz miend dyuring several impreshonabl yeerz on a syudo-sistem ov ruulz, in lurning which memori kounts for everithing and enithing liek reezoning or kleer thaut wood leed strait tu disgrais and los ov marks.

"Meni langwijez in the paast hav gon thru a kriesis similar tu that in which English nou fiendz itself. Sum hav had the vigor and forsiet tu keep thair riten sienz abrest ov thair speech; sum hav faild and eventyuali bekum unintelijibl eeven in thair oen kuntri. I kan hav litl dout that, suuner or laiter, the speekerz ov English wil pruuv themselvz strong enuf tu grapl suksesfuli with the dainjerz ov dekai that lie in our unreformd speling."

Sur WILLIAM RAMSAY sed that, in langwijez liek German, Italian, and Spanish, speling foloed pronunsiaishon so kloesli that eniwun kood lurn them. He rememberd az a yung man spending three yeerz in Germany. Hiz best teecher woz a boi ov for, hu kood reed hiz oen langwij and riet it az wel. It gaiv the boi no trubl and he did not mis-spel. Whot kood thai duu tu get rid ov this bugbair, which had persyud us for sentyuriz? Uther naishonz had not maid a suden chainj, but had chainjd aul along the lien. Thai had aulterd thair speling az thair pronunsiaishon aulterd. The rezoluushon ov the French Akademi that fienal *x*'z shood be chainjd intu *s*'z within a surtin limit ov tiem woz an egzaampl ov hou a naishon wood voluntarili aulter—and veri larjli aulter, bekauz thair wer meni fienal *x*'z—its speling. In lurning German he yust tu hav okaizhon tu spel a wurd for hiz frendz, and hiz

serpriez woz veri grait that thai kood not foloe him. The reezon woz that nobodi in Germany woz ever obliejd tu perform an akt ov speling, and, when an Englishman spelt rapidli, a German, not in the habit ov heering the leterz pronounst, did not recogniez them. Whot he emfasiezd partikyularli woz that, if we aulterd our sistem and maid it reezonabl, the chaansez wer mor than a hundred tu wun that English wood be adopted as the yunivursal langwij. It woz spoeken bi the inhabitants ov the United States, Canada, and South Africa; a larj part ov Japan nou spoek English; in India the oenli langwij in which the naitivz kood komyunikait with eech uther when thai did not kum from the saim part ov the kuntri woz English; the edyukaited inhabitants ov Germany lurnt it; thai kood hardli goe eniwhair in Norway and stop eniwun in the streets hu kood not aanser in English; whiel the Swedes nyu it ekstreemli wel. Edyukaited peepl in the hoel wurld aulmost nyu English, and if it woz maid eezi tu riet English, if thair woz eni ruul for modern pronunsiaishon and speling, we shood hav English adopted az the yunivursal langwij, tu the enormus advaantij not oenli ov ourselvz az English peepl, but ov the hoel wurld.

Mis BURSTALL deklaird that, when laibor found out hou much ov the preshus skuul tiem ov thair children woz being waisted bi the prezent ridikyulus English speling, thair wood be anuther fors for reform. Az regardz the forsez against them, the real difikulti thai had tu fais woz the opozishon ov the edyukaited klaasez, apart from the teecherz. Indeed, the byutiz ov our English speech kood not be prezurvd unles the speling wer impruuvd. Thair woz no wai ov stoping the vulgariezaishon ov ordinari sluvenli speech eksept bi speling reform. The "Times Literary Supplement" in Juun laast for wuns agreed that "we must spel az we wisht tu pronouns, for thus, and thus oenli, kan korekt pronunsiaishon be taut in our skuulz." She urjd memberz ov the Sosieti tu yuz the nyu speling mor than thai did in thair ordinari korespondens, and, further, that thai aut az a sosiëti tu goe tu the Bord ov Edyukaishon for permishon tu alou the sistem tu be yuzd in ofishal korespondens and in egzaminashonz. The Bord shood aulso instrukt thair Inspektorz not tu kondem the yus ov Simplified Speling in skuulz. If oenli thai got that permishon, in ever so limited a fashon, the teecherz wood begin tu akt direktli.

Prof. RIPPMANN gaiv an adres on "The Standerdiezaishon ov English Speech," ov which we hoep, in an urli isyu, tu giv an ekstended report. He propoezd the foloing rezoluushon, which

woz sekonded bi Dr. WESLEY MILLS, and karid without a disenshient:—

"That this meeting regardz it az a mater ov grait importans that English standerd speech shood be kleerli defiend, and rekwests the Bord ov Edyukaishon tu sumon a konferens for this purpos."

SPELING PROBLEMZ.

OO, UU, YU.

OUR reederz hav perhaps wunderd whi we hav waited so long befor returning tu this vekst kwestion. It iz bekauz we wer ankshus tu obtain opinionz from thoez interested. We hav nou reseevd a good number ov leterz deeling mainli or insidentali with the reprezentaishon ov the *u* soundz. Tu reprint them wood taik up much spais and wood oenli be konfyuzing; we thairfor prefur tu sumariez the vyuz which thai kontain.

We ar not serpriezd that *yu* and *uu* shood not be vyud with faivor. *Yu* inishali iz, bi meni, not held tu be objekshonabl, but eeven heer we ar met bi the "yuth, yung" difikulti. Insied the wurd its apeerans iz rietli regarded az undezierabl. *Uu* iz kwiet unfamiliar in English, and it iz not a good diegraaf bekauz ov its similariti, in rieting, tu *nn*, *nu*, *un*, *im*, *mi*.

Whot substityuts ar sujested?

For *yu*: *iu*, *eu*, *ew*; the faivorit iz *eu*. Much mai be sed for it. It iz a familiar kombinaishon, and no wun akustomd tu the oeld speling iz liekli tu be in dout az tu its pronunsiaishon. In this konekshon we think it wel tu print a leter which we hav just reseevd from our valyud frend Mr. Joseph Hogarth, ov Johannesburg. He riets:

> I hav been studiing H. G. Wells'z book entietld *The Star*, and printed in the Sosieti'z skeem, for the purpos ov asertaining the number ov difikult wurdz which the averij man ignorant ov the nyu speling wood enkounter. I kounted 117 such wurdz. With the eksepshon ov siks thai aul divied intu tuu klaasez. The furst konsists ov difikult *c* wurdz, which number 38, such az "cept, cil, ceen, braic, and taic." If the leter *k* wer substityuted for *c*, then the difikulti wood vanish, and theez wurdz wood be eezili red when riten az "kept, keen, kil, braik, and taik." If it haz been desieded tu adopt *k* in the skeem, then thair iz no dout but that the peepl ov the oeld skuul wil fiend it much eezier tu maaster. The sekond klaas numberz no les than 73 and mai be kauld *yu* wurdz, such az "nyu, hyuman, hyuj, cyurius, and byutiful."
>
> The wurdz "you" and "yours" with thair inishal *y*'z apeer so freekwentli in the oeld speling that the averij man thinks an inishal *y* iz aulwaiz in the riet plais. Thairfor kustom and the Simplified Speling skeem agree and shood not be chainjd. But when the sound okurz in the midl and at the end ov wurdz, then it iz far utherwiez. In theez pozishonz the intruuzhon ov a *yu* iz az forin az a Chinaman'z "queue." The oeld speling maiks grait yus ov the formz *eu*, *ew*, and *ue*, aul ov which look aliek. If we adopt the furst form, *eu*, az a substityut for *yu*, then the wurdz aulredi menshond abuv wil apeer az "neu, heuman, heuj, keurius, beutiful." Theez formz rezembl the orijinal speling much mor kloesli and ar thairfor far mor eezili red. The laast siks wurdz out ov the toetal ov 117 kontain a dubl *i* and ar az foloez:—"Huriing, saiing, beliing, praiing, fliing," ets. Az theez wurdz ar so fyu and this leter so long I wil not atemt thair impruuvment.
>
> If H. G. Wells'z litl book kood be again reprinted az sujested abuv it

wood hav the distinkshon ov being furst tu yuz a sistem ov speling which the masez, without eni preevius instrukshon, kood reed at furst siet aulmoest without difikulti—that iz tu sai, a dreem which the moest hoepful reformer never antisipaited iz aulmoest within reech ov being an akomplisht fakt.

Whether it wood be wiez tu maik a distinkshon in the speling when the soundz ar at the begining ov a wurd iz doutful. Tu be shuur, "eu" for "you" wood look strainj at furst.

Akording tu Mr. Eldridge'z list ov wurdz in order ov komonnes, which kontainz 6,000 diferent wurdz draun from nyuspaiper teksts runing tu 44,000 wurdz, the *yu* or *eu* okurz az foloez: list ov 238 wurdz okuring 20 or mor tiemz: "new, you, few, during"; list ov 261 wurdz okuring 10 tu 19 tiemz: "issued, annual, news, popular."

In Mr. Knowles'z list ov the 353 moest freekwentli okuring wurdz in an agregait ov 100,000 wurdz draun from pasijez from the Biebl and vairius authorz, thair ar the foloing wurdz: "you, your, new, during, few, use, duty, due, human."

In the prezent speling *eu* okurz mainli in wurdz derievd from Greek, such az "eulogy, aneurism"; from Latin, such az "neuter"; from French, such az "amateur, grandeur"; and in a fyu utherz, such az "feud, euchre."

The diegraaf *ew* iz komon in naitiv wurdz, *e.g.* "few, new"; it aulso okurz in wurdz ov French orijin, *e.g.* "curfew, nephew." It haz anuther valyu in "brew, flew, screw," ets., and anuther in "sew." Its adopshon iz urjd bi several hu wood liek *w* tu be yuzd for the *oo* sound.

This leedz us tu konsider the propoezd substityuts for *uu*.

Sum ov our reederz fiend it difikult tu obzurv the distinkshon between the vouelz ov, *e.g.*, "good" and "food"; thai sujest that thair iz no need tu yuz *uu* at aul, and that *oo* miet veri wel duu dyuti for boeth.

It wil be yusful again tu giv deetailz az tu the freekwensi ov theez soundz. The komon wurdz kontaining them ar, akording tu Mr. Eldridge: in the list ov 238 wurdz okuring 20 or mor tiemz: "to, who, would, into, do, through, good, could, woman, afternoon, should, put, whom, soon." In the list ov 261 wurdz okuring 10 to 19 tiemz: "too, took, tour, whose, school, room, rule"; and, akording tu Mr. Knowles, "to, who, could, would, should, into, do, look, two, good, through, too, room, whom, took, true, put, whose, soon, sure, full."

If we taik the wurdz komon tu the tuu lists, and leev out ov akount "room" (about which thair mai be diferens ov opinion), we fiend that seven wurdz hav the short vouel and seven the long, in the speech ov thoez hu hav no difikulti in maiking the distinkshon. In no kais iz the distinkshon signifikant, *i.e.* the length ov the vouel iz not a meenz ov distingwishing wurdz ov diferent meening.

The diegraaf *oo* rairli haz eni uther valyu than that in "good, food"; eksepshonz ar "brooch, door, floor, blood, flood."

Anuther substityut sujested iz *w*. Doutles in meni kaisez the speling ov Welsh iz the sors ov this sujestion. It iz maintaind that the inishal leter *w* haz the saim valyu az *oo*, and it iz similarli urjd bi sum that inishal *y* haz the saim valyu az *i* (which eksplainz the propoezal, menshond abuv, tu riet *iu* for *yu*). This wood introdyus sumthing kwiet unfamiliar and wood surtinli goe against the "reedabl at siet" prinsipl; for "wwd (wood), wwl (wool), kwd (kood), hwd (hood), tw (tu), pwl (pool)" wood giv much trubl tu eniwun seing S.S. for the furst tiem.

On the hoel, the argyuments braut forwerd seem tu us in faivor ov "neu, good, food." Wil our reederz again konsider the kwestion? Heer ar sum sentensez for eksperimental purposez: Poot on yur nyu shuuz. (Poot on eur neu shooz.) Fyu styudents persyu the studi ov nyumatiks. (Feu steudents perseu the studi ov neumatiks.) The hyuj bool suun poosht the fuul thru the fens. (The heuj bool soon poosht the fool throo the fens.)

Mr. Sexton, huuz skeem we gaiv in a reesent isyu, sendz us the foloing leter in the speling which he advokaits:—

Alou me tu thank yu for the verri curteus way in hwich yu hav delt

with my sceem in our jurnal. I new that ther wood not be a hy persentij gain ov comon formz on my sistem becauz, aafter aul, the chainjez I propoazd ar not verri grait. But the gain iz in meni smaul werdz, and I sujest that in jeneral outlyn my werdz aproximait cloasli tu ordinari formz. I feel that it iz danjerus tu replais a long leter by a short wun, and *vice versa*. I think that we reed mainli by the long leterz, the short wunz serving az kyndz ov mezhurz ov spais between them. Tu me such formz az "tyumult, hyuj, styudent," ets., seem verri agresiv, and conversli "dai, nou, scie," ets., apeer week.

I hav been thru Wells'z *Star* and fynd that my gain (*vowelz* aloan) from a number point ov vew iz verri smaul, oanli 183 werdz in aul, but iz aulmoast entyrli maid up ov werdz ov wun silabel. The oanli los iz in the cais ov *y* insted ov *ie*, 8 werdz.

It iz truu that in this later cais I am propoazing the eus ov a long leter in plais ov a short wun; but it iz tu be noated that heer it iz tu reprezent a verri strong vowel, and its prominens iz tu a sertin extent justifyd. Eeven so, however, I shood prefer *ie* wer it not for the fact that it leedz tu confeuzhon. I fynd in *The Star* such formz az the foloing: "fliing, siëns, sienz, siëntific, tierd, hier," and utherz.

A SPESIMEN OV CAXTON'Z SPELING.

HE was moche pytous ageynfte them that wold be repentaunt and be penytent, them wold he receyue in to the bofomme of pyte. And whanne the deuille repreuyd this holy man faynt Martyn by caufe he receyued to penaunce them that had ones fallen, & Saynt Martyn answerd to hym, Yf thou, mooste curfyd wretche, woldest leue to tormente the peuple and repente the of thy curfyd dedes, I wold trufte foo moche in our lord that he shold gyue to the hys mercy. —From Caxton'z *Golden Legend*, 1483.

CHAINJEZ FOR THE WURS IN THE SPELING OV THE BIEBL.

AZ a theoloejian [riets Prof. W. Emery Barnes in the "Cambridge Review"] I fiend the studi ov urli English vurshonz ov the Biebl veri instruktiv. Meni chainjez for the wurs hav okurd sins 1335, the dait ov Coverdale'z translaishon. The fansiful speling "believe" haz taiken the plais ov "beleeve" (1617) or "beleve" (Tyndale, 1526). "Delight" (with a rong *gh*) haz syuperseeded "delite" or "delyte" (1535). "Field" haz ousted "feeld" (Wycliffe and Tyndale), and "friend" (with a sensles *ie*) haz driven out "frend" (Great Biebl). "Receipt" in the ordinari edishonz ov the Authoriezd Vurshon iz a korupshon ov the beter "receit" (1617, 1648). (This wurd, ov kors, iz analogus tu "deceit.") Wycliffe and Tyndale giv us "heven" and "leven" and "hevy" and "redy" without the adishon ov a fansi *a*. The saim authoritiz giv us aulso "see" (for "sea"), "leeve" or "leve" (for "leave"), whiel eeven the A.V. (1617) haz "yeers" (for "years").

The sensles dubling ov konsonants iz anuther vies ov modern speling. "Peny" and "folow" apeer in the A.V. ov 1617, and "marvelous" eskaipt a dubl *l* until the laiter edishonz ov the A.V. wer "korekted" bi printerz and editorz. The komon ending *-ness* (az in "business") iz yuzhyuali *-nes* in the Furst Praier Book ov Edward VI, whiel "caried" (for "carried"), and the liek, ar the ruul. Whot riet (I wunder) haz a naishon which trilz its *r*'z az litl az the English tu riet so meni dubl *r*'z when it triez tu spel?

FROM AUL PARTS.

(I. From a Loekal Sekretari ov the "Workers' Educational Association.")

MENI thanks for the literatyur and leter yu hav been kiend enuf tu forwerd tu me. I oenli wish that mi subskripshon tu yur Sosieti woz wun ov a thouzand poundz and not ov a shiling. Stil, aafter aul, whot yur Sosieti wonts iz not muni, but men and wimen hu ar enthyuziasts in edyukaishonal reform ov aul kiendz. Az an ekspeerienst elementari skuul teecher, I noe whot a bugbair speling iz tu teecher and chield aliek. The English Dikshonari duz not kontain wurdz strong enuf tu kondem the irashonal and unprogresiv method ov speling yuzd for the teeching ov English tudai. I am a suporter ov simplified speling aulso bekauz I, az a Welshman, hu luvz hiz fonetik and simpli spelt langwij, noe whot a blesing it iz tu hav a rashonal sistem ov speling. A Welsh chield taiks tu speeking and rieting Welsh aulmoest az eezili az a duk taiks tu wauter. Mai the sukses yur (shood I not sai 'our,' sins I am nou a member ?) Sosieti dezurvz be its reword. I shal duu mi best tu diseminait nolej konsurning the Sosieti bi riten and spoeken wurd in our vairius Braanchez and tu our vairius W.E.A. memberz.

(II. From a London Skuulmistres.)

I shood liek tu tel yu that we hav aulredi begun tu introdyus the nyu speling. We hav, ov kors, tu goe wairili, but manij it in this wai. A list ov wurdz iz prepaird (whair the yusles leterz ar palpabl tu aul hu spel fonetikali), such az "bread," "heard," "wrong," ets. Theez ar riten or printed on the blakbord, and children ar aloud tu point out the leterz not rekwierd, *e.g.* the *a* in "bread," the *a* in "heard," and the *w* in "wrong." Then we tel the children that, tho theez leterz ar no yus whotever, we must poot them in az we hav tu riet bi the "oeld speling," but when we ar aloud tu riet bi the "nyu speling" yusles leterz mai be left out. Oenli the uther dai a litl feloe spelt "use" "yus." I toeld him the "yu" woz kwiet korekt, but we must not riet it that wai yet, az we hav tu yuz the "oeld speling." The hoel klaas seemd tu graasp the difikulti, and I am shuur ar redi tu suport the mor korekt rendering.

Kan yu send me sum mor ov thoez litl kardz ? I am leeving wun on the seet ov the tram, or in the train, or in the waiting room, whair it iz freekwentli taiken up and peryuzd. Nou and again it leedz tu konversaishon about speling, and I fiend thair iz not neerli the opozishon that wun ekspeerienst a short tiem bak.

(III. This leter iz printed from "The Schoolmaster." The rieter iz not a member ov the Sosieti.)

We hu ar groen up hav spent yeerz in lurning tu spel korektli, and we hav no tiem nou and litl inklinaishon tu aulter our method ov speling. We ar tuu oeld in yeerz and tuu set in our habits tu begin tu akwier nyu triks. We ar agreed, houever, that our prezent speling iz absurd and styupid. Ruulz in speling ar oenli maid tu be broeken, so we hav tu faul bak on the eevil sistem that we hav diskarded in everi uther subjekt we teech—the sistem ov memori kram, in which reezon kan plai no part. So, on the wun hand, we ar agreed that our sistem iz az bad az it kan be, whiel on the uther we ar aulso agreed that we pursonali ar not going tu adopt simplified speling. Whot iz the solyushon ov the difikulti ? We aul noe wun vaast arai ov peepl hu wood welkum Simplified Speling with enthyuziazm—the children. Thai hav nuthing tu unlurn, no regrets for waisted laibor. Thai prefur the simplest and moest reezonabl form. A pyurli fonetik sistem maiks the strongest apeel tu thair komon sens. If Simplified Speling iz ever tu kum the children wil be the pioneerz. We ov the oelder jeneraishon wil probabli kontinyu tu spel in the oeld-fashond wai, just az oeld laidiz tudai kling tu the Victorian dres ov thair yuth.

In order that a begining mai be maid in the teeching ov Simplified Speling, which, bi the wai, wil surtinli rezult in simplified teeching, it wil furst be nesesari tu rouz publik opinion for the need for it. At prezent publik

opinion iz aulmoest entierli against it, for tuu reezonz. Furst, bekauz it iz beleevd that adults wil hav tu unlurn the oeld speling and then akwier the nyu; sekond, bekauz ov the deep-ruuted beleef that our speling iz fikst and unaulterabl and haz its ruuts deep in the historikal paast. If theez tuu beleefs kan be chainjd, then the wai wood be oepen for the begining in the nyu speling. It kan be shoen that our speling iz not fikst and haz no historikal baisis. The histori ov speling iz a histori ov chainj and simplifikaishon. We hav oenli tu look at the rieting ov the *Canterbury Tales* ov Chaucer tu see hou grait the chainj haz been. The paath ov histori iz punktyuaited bi the dropt leterz which wer found tu be yusles in surtin wurdz. The chainj haz been gradyual and sloe in the paast. Nou we dezier tu haisen the proeses.

In America aulredi a good begining haz been maid bi prepairing a list ov three hundred wurdz in simplified form. Theez wurdz hav aul been adopted and ar nou being taut. We miet maik a smaul begining with a list ov a dozen esenshal wurdz. The peepl must be konvinst, furst, that thair iz a grait waistij ov tiem in teeching speling; sekondli, that it duz mor harm than good; and, thurdli, that wun ov the strongest reezonz against the adopshon ov English az a yunivursal langwij iz our prezent sistem. Then the nyu sistem wil be adopted—sloeli, but shuurli.

(Mis) J. ST. CLAIR HENDERSON.

(IV. A Sujestion for Propaganda.)

The lien I shood taik iz that peepl hu apeel tu Shakespeare shood konsistentli reed him oenli in the Furst Folioe and kwortoez, tho, ov kors, this iz not a garantee that Shakespeare himself spelt in the saim wai az hiz kopiists and printerz. On the saim lienz Chaucer wood, I ventyur tu sai, be absoluutli unintelijibl tu meni ov theez jentri. Konsider whot an enormus number ov reederz Chaucer wood hav had in the paast and tudai if the S.S.S. had karid out thair skeem in the forteenth sentyuri. Az thingz ar and hav been, reederz hav lookt upon hiz wurk az if it wer riten in a forin tung. I hav refurd tu an ekselent litl book on *The English Language*, bi Mr. Pearsall Smith, in the "Hoem Yunivursiti Liebrari" (pries 1s.). The author, himself an advokait ov reform in speling, points out that the speling ov a langwij duz not stand in the wai ov its development. Az I sed when I sau yu a yeer agoe, I shood liek yu tu print wel noen pasijiz from Wyclif—sai the Lord'z Praier—, the furst tuu stanzaz ov the "Knight's Tale" and ov Spenser'z *Faërie Queene* and sumthing from Shakespeare (Furst Folioe), komenting on them on the lienz I hav indikaited, espeshali on the point that we hav no ashuurans whotever that the authorz aktyuali spelt thair wurdz az thai wer printed, oing tu the wied liesens and vagairiz ov kopiists and tipograferz in urli daiz. This seemz tu me tu nok the argyument from sentiment absoluutli on the hed, tho, ov kors, the meni reezonz and advaantijez that hav been urjd ar mor than sufishent tu eniwun hu noez enithing ov the subjekt. ARTHUR H. SYKES.

SOME kind person has sent me Chaucer's *Poems*. Mr. C. had talent, but he couldn't spel. No man has a right to be a litrary man onless he knows how to spel. It is a pity that Chaucer, who had geneyus, was so unedicated. He's the wuss speller I know of.—ARTEMUS WARD.

I HOLD that a man has jist as mutch rite tew spel a word as it is pronounsed as he has tew pronounse it the wai it ain't spelt.—JOSH BILLINGS.

"HOU absurd," sed the *gnat* tu the *gnu*,
Tu spel yur kweer naim az yu duu!"
"For the mater ov that,"
Sed the *gnu* tu the *gnat*,
"That's just hou I feel about yu!"
—OLIVER HERFORD in "The Century" magazeen.

HAVING spent sum tiem teeching English tu Spaniards and French peepl, I kan testifie that speling reform iz moest urjentli needed if English iz tu retain and impruuv its pozishon amung forinerz. Heer in Barcelona German iz gaining ground bekauz its profesorz ar teling the peepl that, *on akount ov its having orthografikal ruulz*, wun kan lurn tu riet it kwiker than English.—ROGER KINGDON (Barcelona).

A FRENCH VIZITOR'Z TESTIMONI.

[Reprinted from the "Southampton Times."]

A FRENCHMAN hu kauld upon me with a leter ov introdukshon on Tyuzdai toeld me that he had been in England about tuu munths, and had kum oever for the purpos ov lurning the pronunsiaishon ov our langwij. Bi self-tyuishon from books he had got tu reed it veri wel, but tu speek it korektli woz veri difikult, he komplaind. I tried tu ashuur him that he had spent hiz tuu munths tu wunderful advaantij, and he admited that he woz aibl tu maik himself understood in English, yet he lamented that, if he red aloud from wun ov our nyuspaiperz or books, he wood be laaft at. "The speling ov yur books duz not help wun veri much tu get the sound—it iz raather the uther wai, or so I think it iz."

Thair hapend tu be within reech ov mi arm a kopi ov the peeriodikal isyud bi the Simplified Speling Sosieti, and I tried it on the Frenchman. I pointed tu a paragraaf haphazard and sed: "Let me heer hou yu get on with this, if yu duu not miend. It wil interest me; or perhaps yu hav seen sumthing ov the kiend befor?" "No," sed mi vizitor. "It iz a nyu wai ov rieting English—yes?" I eksplaind that aul the leterz not rekwierd tu giv the pronunsiaishon wer omited, and thairupon the Frenchman red out the selekted sentensez with fluuensi, sounding everi wurd korektli eksept wun in which the leter *c* okurd. I had forgoten tu tel him that that leter had the sound ov *k* in the simplified sistem, and, when I had maid that eksplanaishon, awai he went oever anuther kworter ov a paij befor he broek of tu sai: "O! I am glad ov this. It iz veri good—it iz splendid! English wil bekum the internashonal langwij if yu kan bring about this chainj. O! yes, I am shuur. I noe Russian, German, Italian—and French, ov kors. I speek them aul kwiet fluuentli, but English iz the best langwij. It iz so elastik—yu hav so meni wurdz tu ekspres diferent shaidz ov meening. Esperanto I hav lurnt, tuu; but, tho it iz good in itself, yet I fiend so fyu that noe it that it haz been ov but litl yus tu me. Heer yu hav the thing that shood maik English the langwij ov the siviliezd wurld."

The strainjer got so eksieted oever Simplified Speling that I was sori tu hav tu tel him that thair woz no hoep ov its jeneral adopshon, eeven in this kuntri, for anuther jeneraishon or tuu. "Aa! it iz difikult indeed tu braik doun kustom," the Frenchman admited. "We ourselvz wil not drop out ov our wurdz, in rieting and printing, leterz which ar ov no yus. No wun kan eksplain hou thai ever got intu the wurdz, eksept, az sum *savants* sai, thai reprezent mistaiks maid bi rieterz befor the daiz ov printing, huuz wurks wer kopid for the pres tuu slaivishli. In Germany, houever, thair haz been a mezher ov reform. When I lurnt that langwij, az a yuth, we wer taut tu riet a wurd so —— in German karakterz; nou we duu it in English leterz and fyuer ov them. Yur speling reformerz shood not be diskurijd thairfor." I simpli had tu drag mi Frenchman on tu anuther topik.—ROBIN HOOD.

WE ar surtinli far mor inartikyulait than our naiborz on the Continent, and we duu not seem tu hav found the riet yus ov the muther tung az a meenz ov kultyur. I beleev that wun reezon for this iz our barbarus speling sistem, which haz not kept pais with chainjez in the spoeken wurd, and thus the pouer tu riet and speek good English remainz oenli with the kultyurd fyu.—Miss G. N. TODHUNTER in the "Guildford County School Magazine."

NOETS AND NYUZ.

The membership ov the Sosieti nou numberz 2014.

KAN Dickens hav had the konvenshonal speling in miend when he roet this pasij in *The Tale of Two Cities ?* :—"Tellson'z Bank bi Temple Bar woz an oeld-fashond plais, eeven in the yeer wun thouzand seven hundred and aiti. It woz veri smaul, veri dark, veri ugli, veri inkomoedius. It woz an oeld-fashond plais, moroever, in the moral atribyut that the partnerz in the hous wer proud ov its smaulnes, proud ov its darknes, proud ov its uglines, proud ov its inkomoediusnes. Thai wer eeven boestful ov its eminens in thoez partikyularz, and wer fierd bi an ekspres konvikshon that, if it wer les objekshonabl, it wood be les respektabl. This woz no pasiv beleef, but an aktiv wepon which thai flasht at mor konveenient plaisez ov biznes. Tellson'z wonted no liet, Tellson'z wonted no embelishment. Noakes & Co.'z miet, or Snooks Brutherz' miet; but Tellson'z, thank Heven —— Eni wun ov theez partnerz wood hav disinherited hiz sun on the kwestion ov rebilding Tellson'z. In this respekt the hous woz much on a par with the kuntri, which did veri ofen disinherit its sunz for sujesting impruuvments in lauz and kustomz that had long been hieli objekshonabl, but wer oenli the mor respektabl."

A KONTRIBYUTOR sendz us theez further spesimenz ov Ie-Riemz :

"Ie canot imajin whair, *where*,
On the fais ov this roetari *sphere*,"
Sed the luvli Mis *Peto*,
"Mi dog iz *gon-e to*."
A Chinaman aanserd "*Here, here.*"

When Sniggs, ov the Bugaboo *Frigate*,
That lai in the Downs at *Re-igate*,
Went of bi the *water*
Liek eni *blo-ater*,
Giving riez tu *surprise*
In a fat *porpo-ise*,
She woz rid ov a wurthles *pro-fligate*.

MR. HENRY DRUMMOND, ever splendidli bizi in the interests ov intelijent speling, sent the foloing leter tu a Newcastle paiper :

> "Perhaps it mai interest North Kuntri reederz if I transkrieb a leter I reseevd aiteen yeerz agoe from the lait Mr. Joseph Cowen, M.P., on this subjekt. I had aaskt Mr. Cowen if sum modifikaishonz kood be introdyust intu the 'Newcastle Chronicle.' He replied: 'I am much obliejd for yur kiend leter and yur sujestion. We wil trie, if we kan, tu adopt it. I am veri larjli in simpathi with the objekts ov the speling reformerz, but I dout the prejoodisez ov the publik ar tuu strong against it for it tu maik much hed-wai. Meni yeerz agoe I had sum korespondens with Walter Savage Landor on the subjekt. The chainjez he sujested did not goe enithing liek so far az thoez sujested bi Sur Isaac Pitman; but eeven Landor'z propoezal tu spel wurdz akording tu thair sound reseevd litl encurijment. Sum ov hiz books wer printed akording tu hiz iedeaz, but thai wer not akseptabl tu reederz, and he had tu abandon the praktis. Posibli the tiemz mai be mor propishus nou for the reform than thai wer thurti or forti yeerz agoe. It woz Landor'z intens simpathi with the Greek langwij and literatyur that led him tu seek the chainj he propoezd.'"

And, we mai ad, much wauter haz floed under the brij sins Mr. Cowen roet.

THAIR iz a dul saimnes about the argyuments yuzd in defens ov speling az it iz, but heer, at length, iz a wunderful vairiaishon. The inspierd rieter iz a Wolverhampton laidi. We hav impruuvd the speling, but the fraizing iz untucht :—

> Undoutedli the pouer tu spel iz born in the ofspring ov kultyurd peepl ; so iz reeding. I remember that in mi oen kais it woz veri litl trubl tu teech me speling, reeding, or arithmetik. I kood spel wurdz I had never hurd or seen : and I and a bruther kood reprodyus from eer oenli him tyunz, ets., so korektli az tu astonish foek. I shood thairfor sai that in the kais ov a gurl or boi hu haz tu spend 2,320 ourz in lurning tu spel, hiz or her forbairz must hav been dul and unedyukaited foek, with no pashonait luv ov lurning for its oen saik. Thair iz such a thing az natyural aptityud. Moroever, until the grait dark kauz ov *predispozishon* iz taiken intu akount, the riet end ov the stik, or argyument, wil not be forthkuming, nor eni ov the grait eksepshonz it taiks tu pruuv the ruul be found at our finger endz, or survis, until when ruf ges or estimait sufiesez for the ordinari redi-rekoner.
>
> The pashonait hart and eeger brain that goez tu fier and deturmin geenius, and truuli konstityut the *raison d'être* ov *memori* iz bekuming rair, az we bekum mor and mor the witing or unwiting produkts ov a nyurotik siviliezaishon. . . . Hens it iz liekli that an unimpreshonabl boi or gurl spelz nun tuu eezili.

Truuli, it iz a wunderful leter, and the speling ov wurdz niether hurd nor seen iz a goestli gift. Houever, this syupurnal gift ov speling duz not seem tu bring with it the abiliti tu riet good English.

WUN bi wun the veteranz depart. We noet with apreesiaishon the wurk ov the lait Mr. W. E. A. Axon, ov Manchester. Hiz asoesiaishon with Dr. A. J. Ellis, Prof. Skeat, Sur Isaac Pitman, Mr. Henry Pitman, ets., on behaaf ov a sainer speling dezurvz the aknolejment ov thoez stil on the feeld. He soed the seed when the soërz wer fyuer and the ground harder. He woz a man ov deep simpathiz and had an ensieklopeedik miend, ever redi and at the survis ov hiz feloez.

MR. BRODRICK, ov Birkenhead, haz adrest tu the Pres a leter giving hiz pursonal ekspeeriens dyuring a rezidens ov fiev and a haaf yeerz in the Philippine Ielandz :

> I had meni oportyunitiz ov woching the eforts ov the American skuul teecherz tu teech the Filipino children English. I noe meni ov the seenior pyupilz, az wel az the teecherz, in the district whair I woz, and I hav no hezitaishon in saiing that for everi wun pyupil hu, at the end ov tuu or three yeerz, had ataind eni sort ov profishensi in English, thair wood hav been fifti had it not been for the intens difikulti prezented bi our speling. The saim stait ov thingz egzists tudai within our oen Empier, notabli in India. Duu not our responsibilitiz tu our feloe subjekts thair and elswhair *demaand* that we shood, bi simplifiing our speling, **remuuv the wun grait hindrans tu lurning English**? And wood not a mor rapid spred ov English maik for a beter understanding between the subjekt and the dominant raisez, and so help the wurk ov Empier ?

"AZ a printerz' reeder hu iz akustomd tu the byutiz ov our invinsibl PIONEER and yet obliejd tu kari in hiz ie the endles anomaliz ov our konvenshonal speling, I am mor and mor disgusted with the later, which iz indeed a hevi yoek."—This leter, riten bi wun hu in hiz daili ruuteen seez the oeld and the nyu speling in praktis, iz partikyularli sujestiv. It iz riten, tuu, within sound ov the printing presez.

MR. J. M. ANDERSON riets: "Laitli I hav hurd Prof. George Brandes speek. Tho an akomplisht skolar in English hiz pronunsiaishon woz veri bad. And no wunder! He kauld 'komik' 'koemik,' he sed 'eelokwens' for 'elokwens,' and maid a thouzand uther mistaiks just bekauz thair iz skairsli enithing in the English speling tu garantee that wun vouel iz short and anuther long. A grait skolar and kritik ov renoun woz nonplust." Mr. Anderson aulso givz a chield'z speling ov "psalms"—"psalmns." "He nyu it had sumthing tu duu with 'hymns,' but, puur chield, eeven hiz vishiaited lojik woz rong."

"TU taik the understanding ov the familiar wurd 'home' az an ilustraishon, sum wood argyu that thai got the fulest apreesiaishon ov its meening when thai sau it in print, utherz when thai hurd it feelingli spoeken, but fyu realiezd the aded apreesiaishon that kaim from speeking it korektli. No suuner woz the wurd myuzikali pronounst than a much fuler apreesiaishon ov the oeld balad 'Home, sweet Home' bekaim posibl."—This ekstrakt from Dr. Hulbert's speech at the London Yunivursiti reesentli telz whair truu byuti liez in wurdz.

ON paij 156 ov the laast number ov THE PIONEER a misprint okurd. For "eight" "light" shood hav been printed.

HOU duu yu pronouns "margarine"? Sur William Ramsay took a shoe ov handz the uther dai. The rezult woz interesting.

IN a theater wun eevening Mr. Archer oeverhurd the pronunsiaishon "jiberish." A speeker at a konferens meeting the uther dai spoek ov "analojus." But whot giedans iz thair in the spelingz "gibberish" and "analogous?" Let him hu haz no sin kaast the furst stoen.

THE revieval ov the spoeken wurd iz no fansi, but a prezent realiti. Messrs. Ralph, Holland, & Co. hav sent us a book on *Praktikal Speech Kultyur*, riten bi Mr. Alfred C. Cox, Manajer ov the Ealing Braanch ov Clark's Kolej. The book iz reali adrest tu biznes and profeshonal peepl. We kwoet the introduktori paragraaf: "A pleezing adres iz a priesles aset, and the valyu ov a kultivaited and skilfuli yuzd speeking vois kan not be oever-estimaited. Its importans iz aulwaiz aknolejd, but ekstreemli seldom iz it enkounterd. Houever, it iz bekuming mor and mor rekogniezd that the real langwij iz the spoeken langwij, and we ar on the eev ov a renaisans ov a kleer and meloedius speech."

"'YUNIET'—duu yu kaul that 'Simplified Speling?'" So the chaans skofer. Let us aask him in return if it kan be konsiderd a simplifikaishon tu yuz *sh* for the sound hurd in "sure, partial, musician, ocean, compulsion, revolution, luscious, anxious, pressure"? It mai then daun upon him that **not bi singl wurdz ar we tu be jujd, but bi the sistem az a hoel.**

MR. GEORGE HIGGIE, ov Rothesay, iz a seesles advokait ov truuthful speling. In a litl book just publisht he diskusez the kwestion in a moest entertaining wai. "Yeerz agoe, when I woz traveling tu our koloniz, a forin laidi siting oposit tu me at brekfast bent forwerd and koili whisperd 'Mair ma laddie.' I woz amaizd. I thaut she woz atemting tu speek in Scotch. She simpli wonted the 'marmalade.'"

MR. GOTTSCHLING, wun ov our memberz, iz about tu publish hiz vyuz on the subjekt ov speling reform, which he advokaits with grait urnestnes. Hiz adres iz 25 Langdon Road, Upper Holloway, London, N. The Rev. J. B.

Ansted, M.A., 19 Highbury Hill, London, N., haz publisht a pamflet, *Reform in Speling*. Welkum tu everi warior!

"Ov aul thingz a waist ov tiem, the difyuzhon and dispurshon ov interest thru waist ov tiem, iz the dedliest disabiliti that kan oevertaik eni hyuman karakter." The speeker woz Lord Morley. And, tu poot it positivli, the saiving ov tiem and the konsentraishon ov it on the thingz that mater, iz a ministri ov which we mai aul be proud.

THE revyu bi Mr. Archer ov the Standerd Dikshonari wil apeer nekst munth.

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A LITL GURL'Z EKSPEERIENS.

(We hav transpoezd this leter intu the speling which the yung laidi dezierz. For the leter we ar indeted tu the wit ov Mr. G. J. Michell, ov Devonport.)

DEER UNKL,—Tu-dai we had a speling leson, and I thaut we wer going tu hav a nies eezi tiem.

Teecher began with "he, we, she, be, ye," and then she maid us riet "see, fee, bee, free, tree, glee." It seemd funi that sum wurdz shood hav wun *e* and utherz tuu, but it woz much kweerer when we had tu riet "sea, tea, flea, plea." Whot biznes *a* had in thoez wurdz I koodn't tel.

Nekst teecher roet on the bord "-eet" and "-eat," and toeld us tu sai wurdz sounded or speld liek "feet, meat." She maid tuu lienz ov wurdz, wun ov wurdz ending in *-eet* and the uther ov wurdz ending in *-eat :*

-eet : feet, sheet, meet, greet, sleet, sweet, street, beet, fleet.
-eat : feat, meat, beat, bleat, treat, wheat, seat, neat.

She sed she did not wont "deceit" and "receipt." It woz a puzl tu noe which lien she wood poot the wurdz in. Whi sum end in *-eet* and utherz in *-eat* nobodi kood understand.

Then she tried *-eel* and *-eal :*

-eel : heel, keel, peel, steel, eel, wheel, kneel, feel.
-eal : heal, peal, steal, deal, meal, seal, squeal, weal, wheal, zeal.

She seemd kwiet serpriezd when we naimd mor wurdz in *-eal* than in *-eel*, and muterd sumthing which sounded liek "—found the speling!" but she sed aloud, "Variëti iz charming," whotever that mai meen, and maid us riet that sentens in our kopibooks.—Yur luving nees, PHŒBE DENE STEELE.

P.S.—I wish sumwun wood riet tu the King and tel him hou hard it iz for litl boiz and gurlz tu spel. Perhaps for the saik ov hiz oen boiz and gurlz he wood maik speling eezi.

PRES KUTINGZ OV THE MUNTH.

Desember.

LETERZ ADVOKAITING REFORM wer printed in : **Aberdeen Daily Journal, Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald, Ayr Observer, Baptist Times and Freeman, Bath Herald, Belfast News Letter, Birkenhead News, Birmingham Weekly Post, Bookseller, Border Standard, British and Colonial Printer, Cambridge Daily News, Cleckheaton Guardian, Commercial Education, Daily Express, Dundee Advertiser, Dundee Courier, Evening Mail, Evening Times** (Glasgow), **Helensburgh News, Huddersfield Examiner, Indicator, Irish Independent, Langport Herald, Leinster Express, Liverpool Courier, Leeds Mercury, Manchester City News, Manchester Courier, Manchester Weekly Times, Morning Advertiser, Musical Opinion, Newcastle Journal, Newcastle Evening Mail, Northern Daily Mail, Northern Whig, Northern Scot, Nottingham Express, Schoolmaster, Sheffield Daily Telegraph, South Wales Daily News, Southampton Times and Hampshire Express, Stockport Express, Sunday Times, Western Mail, Western Morning News, Westminster Gazette, Yorkshire Post.**

SPESHAL ARTIKLZ ("Baibi Tauk and Skuul Speech," "The Muther Tung") apeerd in : **Birmingham Express and Star, Belfast Evening Telegraph, Burton Observer, Largs and Milport Weekly News, Western Morning News, Waterford Standard.**

THE S.S.S. LEKTYUR AT ST. BRIDE'Z INSTITYUT woz reported in : **Birmingham Post, Bristol Evening News, Commercial Education, Daily Chronicle, Daily Express, Daily Graphic, Daily News and Leader, Daily Telegraph, Derby Reporter, English Mechanic, Evening Standard,**

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BIEBL SPELING, a leter from Prof. W. Emery Barnes, apeerd in: Herts Advertiser, Journal of Education, Langport Herald, Shrewsbury Chronicle, South Wales Daily News, Teachers' Times, Wigan Examiner, Witness.

The Star (in S.S.) woz printed in: Birmingham Weekly Mercury, Darwen News, Leinster Express.

THE SOSIETI FOR PYUR ENGLISH, founded bi Dr. Robert Bridges, iz menshond in: Bournemouth Daily Echo, Cambridge Weekly News, Daily Citizen, Daily Mail, Daily Express, Dundee Advertiser, Evening News, Guardian, Morning Post, Nottingham Express, Nottingham Guardian, Morning Post, Pall Mall Gazette, Queen, Standard, Southern Daily Echo, Sussex Daily News, Westminster Gazette.

KWOTAISHONZ FROM THE CHRISTMAS KARD printed bi the S.S.S. wer given in Brighton Society and Camberwell and Peckham Times.

SPELING woz refurd tu in artiklz printed in: Aberdeen Free Press, Bristol Times, Catholic Herald, Dundee Advertiser, East Anglian Times, New Witness, Northern Whig, Science Siftings, Sussex Daily Mail, Times, Westminster Gazette, Western Morning News, World's Work.

PRONUNSIAISHON OV WELSH woz diskust in: Daily Citizen, Daily Express, Western Mail.

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